

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 are presently pending in this application, Claims 1-4 having been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2002-161193 (hereinafter “JP ‘193”) in view of Shimizu et al. (U.S. Patent 5,919,844); Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP ‘193 in view of Maeda et al. (U.S. Patent 6,190,787); Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2002-080695 (hereinafter “JP ‘695”) in view of Shimizu et al.; Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP ‘695 in view of Maeda et al.; Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2002-212393 (hereinafter “JP ‘393”) in view of Shimizu et al.; and Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP ‘393 in view of Maeda et al. However, the claim language for moving the application towards allowance was suggested by the Examiner.

First, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of the allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the claim language suggested by the Examiner. Also, Claims 1-4 have been revised for clarification and formality. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the epoxy resin composition recited in amended Claim 1 is believed to be distinguishable from JP ‘193, Shimizu et al., Maeda et al., JP ‘695 and JP ‘393, and their teachings would not render the epoxy resin composition recited in Claim 1 obvious.

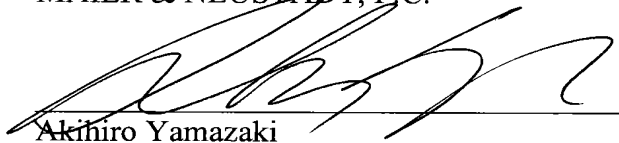
For the foregoing reasons, Claim 1 is believed to be allowable. Furthermore, since Claims 2-8 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1, substantially the same arguments set

forth above also apply to these dependent claims. Hence, Claims 2-8 are believed to be allowable as well.

In view of the prior indication of allowable subject matter and the amendments presented above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. If, however, the Examiner disagrees with any of the aforementioned amendments, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work in a joint effort to resolve any remaining issues and expedite the prosecution of the present application. Applicants respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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